

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0380

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JULY 17 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE FINAL PLENARY SESSION OF THE SIXTH ROUND
OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON JULY 17, SOVIET REP
(KHLESTOV) DELIVERED A STATEMENT RECAPITULATING THE
EAST'S VIEWS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
(FULL TEXT BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM). KHLESTOV MADE
THE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

A. WITH THE END OF THE CSCE IN SIGHT, FURTHER
PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL
DETENTE.

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B. CONSEQUENTLY IT IS NOW BECOMING MORE URGENT TO SUPPLEMENT POLITICAL DETENTE WITH MILITARY DETENTE.

C. TO THIS END, IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO CURB THE ARMS RACE AND REDUCE ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS.

D. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAD SOUGHT MOVEMENT IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS IN THE SIXTH ROUND, AS BEFORE.

E. THE EAST'S DRAFT AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 8, 1973 AND ITS SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THAT DRAFT AND OTHER PROPOSALS WERE EVIDENCE OF EASTERN DESIRE FOR PROGRESS.

F. THE CURRENT DIALOGUE ON FORCE DEFINITIONS WAS A STILL FURTHER EASTERN INITIATIVE.

G. IF PARTICIPANTS WANTED SUCCESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BASE THEIR EFFORTS ON EXISTING REALITIES RATHER THAN TRYING TO CHANGE THE HISTORICALLY-ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN THE AREA.

H. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WERE CONTINUING TO SEEK UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGES. THAT THIS WAS AN ALLIED GOAL WAS DEMONSTRATED BY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF ALL SIX NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES FROM THE OUTSET OR TO SPECIFY THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS.

I. ALLIED REFUSAL TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS, ESPECIALLY NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND ALLIED EFFORTS TO PUSH ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS FURTHER SHOWED THAT THE WEST WANTED UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGES.
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J. IN THE LAST THREE ROUNDS, WESTERN DELEGATIONS HAD TAKEN "AN EVEN MORE NEGATIVE POSITION" ON SOME QUESTIONS THAN BEFORE; A HARDENING HAD OCCURRED IN THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF NON-US NATO DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ASSUMING CONCRETE REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS, EVEN IN THE SECOND OF THE TWO PHASES PROPOSED BY THE WEST.

K. IN SUMMARY, THE WEST HAD NOT YET SHOWN
READINESS TO SEARCH FOR A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE
AGREEMENT.

L. KHLESTOV CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE
THAT IN THE NEXT ROUND THE ALLIES WOULD BE READY
TO TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS LEADING TO MUTUAL
AGREEMENT.RESOR

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